REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's further Office Action of April 1, 2008 issued with respect to the present RCE application, the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 14 is amended to specify that the orientation of the segment of digital ink is estimated by measuring the azimuth of the pen at a sampling rate during writer generation of a plurality of digital ink training text characters, determining a mean azimuth for all of the sampled points of the training text characters, measuring the azimuth of the pen at a sampling rate during writer generation of the segment, and subtracting the determined mean azimuth from each measured azimuth of each sampled point of the segment. Support for this amendment can be found in paragraphs [034]-[039] of the present specification; and

dependent claims 17-27 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application.

Regarding 35 USC 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 14, and claims 17-27 dependent therefrom, is not taught or suggested by any one or more of previously cited Ikebata, Parthasarathy and Gierhart in view of newly cited Schwartz et al. (US 6,215,901), for at least the following reasons.

Amended independent claim 14 clarifies that in the claimed invention the mean azimuth subtracted from the sampled points of the written digital ink segment is determined from all sampled points of a plurality of training text characters generated by a writer (see paragraphs [034]-[039] of the present specification).

On the other hand, Ikebata specifically discloses that as a character is generated the average slant angle is determined for that character and compensation for that character is carried out using that average slant angle, and Gierhart specifically discloses using a moving average pen tilt azimuth which is progressively determined as more characters are generated (see col. 17, lines 54-64). Thus, neither Ikebata nor Gierhart disclose using a mean azimuth predetermined using a plurality of training text characters, as required by the claimed invention, rather they disclose determining and applying average azimuth values to written characters determined as the characters are written.

Further, neither Parthasarathy nor Schwartz provide any disclosure which makes up for these deficiencies in Ikebata and Gierhart.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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